

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Chelmsford.—The old conduit has been renovated and altered in its re-erection at the broad space near "The Black Boy," in this town, according to the local *Chronicle*. The structure is changed from the Grecian to the Roman Doric order. Mr. Fenton planned and carried out its re-erection in its present shape. The work was executed by Mr. Wray, in part gratuitously.

Northampton.—The local *Mercury* says:—"We understand that a single ironmaster in the neighbourhood of Dndley is conveying away the ironstone of this county at the rate of 2,000 tons per week. The firm in question is making a railway siding at our Northampton station, at a cost of 800l. for the express purpose of facilitating the conveyance."

Worcester.—The design by Mr. Preedy, for the long-talked-of Adelaide Window, is said to be now nearly completed.—Mr. J. Thompson is now engaged in repairing the side aisles and nave of the old church of St. Mary. This was contemplated when the stained window was purchased and other alterations made at a considerable expense; but a vested right in certain pews interfered with the work. The old high-backed pews are now giving place to open seats.—The gas company has recently announced the usual dividend of 8 per cent. free of income tax.

Warwick.—The chancel of St. Mary's Church, nearly the whole of which, together with the groined roof, was covered with paint and whitewash, is now being restored. Fifty men are at work upon it. Originally the walls were of ashlar, and in some places they appear to have been tooled rough, in order to enable the whitewash to adhere. It is much to be wished that the restoration of the whole of this church could be effected.

Longridge (Preston).—A stone, 13 feet long, 7 feet wide, and 1 foot 6 inches thick, has been conveyed from Longridge to the river Loud, to be placed in the bed of the stream, for the purpose of forming a weir and raising the river, that the more water may flow down the culvert, now being formed from the Loud to the Alston reservoir. The stone contains more than 140 solid feet, and weighs more than twelve tons. It was obtained from the quarry of Mr. Fletcher. Messrs. Cooper and Tullis, of Preston, the contractors for the work, have to place another stone of only a little less proportions in the same culvert.

Leeds.—On 2nd inst. the new church of St. Thomas, erected in Melbourn-street, North-street, was consecrated by the Bishop of Ripon. It is of brick, although the West Riding abounds in stone. The style is Decorated. Mr. Butterfield, of London, was the architect. The nave, aisles, and lower story of the tower (which for the present is finished as a porch) is the only part completed. The chancel foundations are laid in. The materials, inside and outside, are red and black bricks, with stone windows and doorways, banded and tied together with stone. The stone is used in no other manner. The black bricks are said to be jet black throughout, and without any glaze. The roof is cruciform by means of large transeptal lights to the clerestory at the east end. The aisles are lofty, with long three-light windows in each bay. The west window is of three long lights, with tracery in the head above a doorway. The pavement throughout is of Minton's red and black tiles. The building will accommodate 750 persons—seatings all free. It was begun in 1849 by a retired tradesman of the Leylands district of the town, who meant to build a church, school, and parsonage, and endow the incumbency, but the nave only of the church and the churchyard wall were completed at his cost. Upwards of 2,000l. has been raised in aid of the benevolent design.

Edinburgh.—In Candlemaker-row some men, while making a sewer recently, discovered a covered well. They incautiously let a candle down in it, when an explosion took place. The street has been torn up to a considerable extent by the force of the gaseous matter. No lives were lost, but two men were badly hurt.

Glasgow.—A warehouse of glass and iron is being constructed here, by way of imitation

of the Great Exhibition Building, and to attract customers. The central promenade will be 80 feet long and 12 wide.

Guernsey.—From a paragraph quoted in the *Jersey Times*, we observe that a gentleman from the establishment of Mr. Rendel, C.E. has been at Guernsey on business connected with the new harbour of St. Peter's Port. Sections and specifications were to be ready by middle of February, when the harbour committee will issue their tenders for the construction of the first section of Mr. Rendel's plan. Messrs. Tostevin, of St. Pierre-du-Bois, are preparing two blocks of stone for the foundation of the harbour. Each block will weigh about six tons.

Chatteris.—A correspondent of the *Cambridge Chronicle* advocates the necessity of a reform in the gas-lighting of this town by the establishment of a new company with moderate prices. The present company charge 10s. a thousand cubic feet; and the consequence is, that in the main street, which is a mile and a quarter long, "there are but four lamps, which, with three private ones and one on the Ely road, form the actual quantity of lamps lighted in Chatteris." Anything more glaringly illustrative of the truth of what we have so often said on this subject could not well be. We have no doubt, however, that the company absurdly imagine that they cannot afford to reduce the price because so little is consumed.

GAS.

Gateshead.—At a recent meeting of the corporation, a report was made by the town surveyor, Mr. Hall, "upon the extent of gas-pipeage at present laid in the borough, with a view to consider the expediency of erecting gas-works." At the outset, he called attention to the new description of pipes for the transmission of gas and water, now in satisfactory operation in Paris, where none other are now used. These pipes are made of sheet-iron, strongly rivetted, galvanised, and coated with asphalt. The price is somewhat less than that of cast-iron pipes, and, being impermeable, leakage is all but obviated; while, with cast-iron pipes, the leakage is so considerable as to amount, in the case of one of the largest gas-works in London, to two-fifths of the gas produced, to the great loss of the shareholders and injury of the public health. The gas-works for Gateshead, the report stated, may be constructed, with a complete system of pipeage, for 17,000l. The annual working expenses, including 5 per cent. upon the capital invested, would amount to 4,600l. The receipts from the sale of gas at 2s. 9d. per 1,000 cubic feet, together with the residual products, would exceed 5,000l. Were the cost of construction to be repaid in thirty years (in terms of the Public Health Act), and the gas to be supplied for public and private consumption at 2s. 9d. per 1,000, there would still remain a balance, applicable to further reduction or to public improvements; and the balance would increase from year to year, by the gradual discharge of the debt and extension of consumption. The reporter entered into statements as to the cost to Gateshead of the public lights, and presented estimates showing that gas can be manufactured and supplied, including 5 per cent. interest upon capital invested, at 2s. 3½d. per 1,000, or that the prime cost is 1s. 9½d. The present charge is 4s. 6d. per 1,000, with a discount of 10 to 30 per cent., the average price being a fraction less than 3s. 10½d. The discount of 20 per cent. is, however, only allowed to the very largest consumers. In conclusion, the surveyor remarked that "unless the Gas Company (as Mr. Rawlinson, the superintending inspector, observes,) see their true interest in a more equitable arrangement, the corporation of Gateshead, in self-defence, will be obliged to obtain powers, and to construct works for the borough." "Should the company, however," adds the *Gateshead Observer* in reporting the proceedings of the authorities, "see the necessity of a considerable reduction, there is no doubt, from the past experience of similar cases, that the increased consumption will more than compensate the shareholders. We believe we may state that the gas directors have now

under consideration the question of a reduction of price, and we have no doubt that they will 'come down handsomely.'

Manchester.—The Gas Committee have applied to the corporation for power to extend greatly the capabilities of the gas works, as the demand for gas is immensely on the increase. The corporation agreed to a resolution, empowering the Gas Committee to borrow 30,000l. for the purpose. Councillor Stracy regretted that these extensions had not been made earlier. He then alluded to the present price of gas, and said that ere long this question must come before the council. The price now paid was 5s. per 1,000 feet, whereas in Liverpool, where they had not the coal so near at hand as Manchester had, the price was 4s. 6d. In Liverpool, the three gas companies, now amalgamated, paid 10 per cent. per annum to their shareholders. He attributed this greater prosperity in Liverpool than Manchester to the fact that they had a more liberal way of treating their customers. In Liverpool they leased their meters at 1s. per quarter. All round Liverpool, for a distance of four miles, gas was introduced, but in the neighbourhood of Manchester this was the exception. In London, the charge was 4s., and a great quantity of the coal was brought from Wigan. In Leeds, the price was 3s., and the last dividend was 10 per cent. among old subscribers, and 6 per cent. among new. In Wakefield, the charge was 3s. and in Stockton only 2s. 6d., and yet the latter paid a dividend of 8 per cent. In Gloucester, too, the price was only 2s. 6d. per 1,000 feet, and they paid 7½ per cent. The highest price which he could find, as being paid for gas, was at Gravesend, where it was 6s. per 1,000 feet. He wished the Gas Committee to look at these facts, and to consider whether they could not reduce the price.

Dunstable.—The price at Dunstable is to be reduced from 10s. to 7s. a thousand cubic feet, and a new gasometer is to be put down to meet the anticipated increase of consumption.

Cambridge.—The Cambridge Company have announced a reduction of price from 5s. 6d. to 5s. During the last six years they have come down from 9s. to 5s. 6d.

Doncaster.—The following particulars, quoted from the *Doncaster Gazette*, may be instructive:—"On Monday last, the general meeting of the shareholders of the gas-works was held at the Guildhall, in this town; but such is the confidence of the proprietary in the committee of management, that not a single individual was present except the executive. From a statement of accounts produced by the clerk, it appeared that the receipts of the past year were, for gas by meter, 1,911l. 5s. 5d.; street lamps, 645l.; public clock, 10l.; coke, 267l. 7s. 9½d.; tar, 27l. 6s. 3d.; lime, 15l. 18s. 8½d.; old metal, 12l. 9s. 4½d.; fittings, &c., 55l. 13s. 3½d.; sundry discounts, 79l. 1s. 10d.; rental of meters, 1,611l. 19s. 4d. The expenditure was, for coals and slack, 485l. 16s. 4d.; freights and dues, 233l. 2s. 1d.; tradesmen's bills, 1,133l. 9s. 2d.; wages, 763l. 11s. 8½d.; making a total of 2,615l. 9s. 5½d.; and leaving a surplus of 570l. 11s. 9½d. in favour of the company. Besides this, there is due a considerable sum for the last quarter which would make in round numbers a clear 1,000l. There is no wonder that the shareholders should be satisfied with this state of prosperity." They contemplate extending their works by an addition of a gasometer capable of holding from 60,000 to 90,000 cubic feet, and other improvements which the increased necessities of the town require.

LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of this society was held on Wednesday evening, the 4th. Mr. J. B. Edwards explained a new pharmaceutical apparatus, invented by Coffey and Smith, of London. The machine is worked by gas, having a peculiar burner, which causes the oxygen of the air to consume the carbon of the gas. The burners were stated to cost about 8s. or 9s. a dozen, and the apparatus itself varied in price from 5l. to 30l. Several papers were postponed. The evening's proceedings terminated by reading a paper on the laws regulating the use of ornament.